

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

27. (currently amended) A computer-based method of scheduling executions of programs on a plurality of computers comprising the steps of, at a scheduling computer:

- (a) receiving a first notification from a first computer upon the installation of a first program on the first computer;
- (b) receiving a second notification from a second computer upon the installation of a second program on the second computer, wherein the operating system of the second computer is different from the operating system of the first computer;
- (c) updating a master schedule based on the first and the second notifications, wherein the updated master schedule indicates when the first program is to be executed on the first computer and when the second program is to be executed on the second computer; and
- (d) requesting the first computer to execute the first program and requesting the second computer to execute the second program according to the updated master schedule.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein step (c) further comprises indicating in the master schedule that the execution of the first program depends on a condition; and step (d) further comprises requesting the first computer to execute the first program upon the occurrence of the condition.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein step (c) further comprises indicating in the updated master schedule that an execution of the second program depends on an execution of the first program meeting a criterion; and step (d) comprises:

- (1) requesting the first computer to execute the first program;

(2) receiving a result from the first computer, wherein the result is based on the execution of the first program; and

(3) requesting the second computer to execute the second program if the result meets the criterion.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein step (d) further comprises:

- (1) monitoring the load of the first computer;
- (2) monitoring the load of the second computer; and
- (3) adjusting the updated master schedule based on the load of the first computer and the load of the second computer.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein step (c) further comprises assigning a first priority to the first program and a second priority to the second program; and further comprising adjusting the updated master schedule based on the first priority and the second priority.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein step (c) further comprises accepting at least one command from a user to define the updated master schedule.

33. (currently amended) A system for scheduling executions of programs on a plurality of computers comprising of a scheduling computer networked to a first computer and a second computer, wherein the scheduling computer comprises:

receiving means for receiving a first notification from a first computer upon the installation of a first program on the first computer;

receiving means for receiving a second notification from a second computer upon the installation of a second program on the second computer, wherein the operating system of the second computer is different from the operating system of the first computer;

updating means for updating a master schedule based on the first and the second notifications, wherein the updated master schedule indicates when the first program is to be executed on the first computer and when the second program is to be executed on the second computer; and

requesting means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program and requesting the second computer to execute the second program according to the updated master schedule.

34. (previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the updating means further comprises indicating means for indicating in the updated master schedule that the execution of the first program depends on a condition; and the requesting means further comprises requesting means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program upon the occurrence of the condition.

35. (currently amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the updating means further comprises indicating means for indicating in the updated master schedule that an execution of the second program depends on an execution of the first program meeting a criterion; and the requesting means comprises:

requesting means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program;

receiving means for receiving a result from the first computer, wherein the result is based on the execution of the first program; and

requesting means for requesting the second computer to execute the second program if the result meets the criterion.

36. (previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the requesting means further comprises:

monitoring means for monitoring the load of the first computer;

monitoring means for monitoring the load of the second computer; and

adjusting means for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the load of the first computer and the load of the second computer.

37. (previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the updating means further comprises assigning means for assigning a first priority to the first program and a second priority to the second program; and the requesting means further comprises adjusting means for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the first priority and the second priority.

38. (previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the updating means further comprises accepting means for accepting at least one command from a user to define the updated master schedule.

39. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means embedded in the medium for causing an application program to execute on a scheduling computer that schedules executions of programs on a plurality of computers comprising:

a first computer readable program code means for receiving a first notification from a first computer upon the installation of a first program on the first computer;

a second computer readable program code means for receiving a second notification from a second computer upon the installation of a second program on the second computer, wherein the operating system of the second computer is different from the operating system of the first computer;

a third computer readable program code means for updating a master schedule based on the first and the second notifications, wherein the updated master schedule indicates when the first program is to be executed on the first computer and when the second program is to be executed on the second computer; and

a fourth computer readable program code means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program and requesting the second computer to execute the second program according to the updated master schedule.

40. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ computer program product of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable program code means further comprises a fifth computer readable program code means for indicating in the updated master schedule

that the execution of the first program depends on a condition; and the fourth computer readable program code means further comprises a sixth computer readable program code means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program upon the occurrence of the condition.

41. (currently amended) The ~~method~~computer program product of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable program code means further comprises a fifth computer readable program code means for indicating in the updated master schedule that an execution of the second program depends on an execution of the first program meeting a criterion; and the fourth computer readable program code means further comprises:

a sixth computer readable program code means for requesting the first computer to execute the first program;

a seventh computer readable program code means for receiving a result from the first computer, wherein the result is based on the execution of the first program; and

an eighth computer readable program code means for requesting the second computer to execute the second program if the result meets the criterion.

42. (currently amended) The ~~method~~computer program product of claim 39, wherein the fourth computer readable program code means further comprises:

a fifth computer readable program code means for monitoring the load of the first computer;

a sixth computer readable program code means for monitoring the load of the second computer; and

a seventh computer readable program code means for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the load of the first computer and the load of the second computer.

43. (currently amended) The ~~method~~computer program product of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable program code means further comprises a fifth computer readable program code means for assigning a first priority to the first program

and a second priority to the second program; and the fourth computer readable program code means further comprises of a sixth computer readable program code means for adjusting the updated master schedule based on the first priority and the second priority.

44. (currently amended) The ~~method~~computer program product of claim 39, wherein the third computer readable program code means further comprises of a fifth computer readable program code means for accepting at least one command from a user to define the updated master schedule.